

CHICAGO COIN CLUB

500th MEETING

September 14, 1960





CHICAGO COIN CLUB

500th Meeting Souvenir Booklet

In presenting this Souvenir of the 500th Chicago Coin Club meeting, the present officers and members salute those who have been responsible for the founding and enviable record of the Club. Many names stand out in the record of 41 years during which monthly meetings have been held regularly, but it would be an injustice to the host of others, whose worthy contributions have gone unrecorded, to single out any for special mention here.



Picture taken at CCC 500th meeting, September 14, 1960. Seated, left to right, Charter Members Ernest Jonas, Anna M. Ripstra, and J. Henri Ripstra (Charter Members George F. Brown and Michael P. Carey reside in California and were not present). Standing, left to right, Past Presidents Harry X Boesel, I. T. Kopicki, Earl F. Barger, Elston G. Bradfield, Robert L. McBrien, and Theodore F. Pokorney.

Nor do we overlook the efforts of those who are currently devoted to the Club. Every effort was made, for example, to have the original and distinctive medal ready for distribution at the 500th meeting which it was designed to commemorate, but conditions beyond our control delayed the striking. Those who have subscribed to it will receive the medals by mail as soon as possible after they are ready. We appreciate the response to this medallie offering and trust that each purchaser will treasure this memento of a significant numismatic occasion.

Our hope for the Club's future is that it will maintain its place of prominence in numismatics, and be a source of inspiration and satisfaction to each of its members.

—Glenn B. Smedley,
President

Officers and Directors — 1960

Glenn B. Smedley	President
Hugh M. Knight	1st Vice President
Michael M. Dolnick	2nd Vice President
Judy Sabel	Secretary-Treasurer
Nathan N. Eglit	Director
H. J. Shaner, Jr.	Director
Joseph E. Merkel	Director

PAST PRESIDENTS

C. N. Hinckley	1919	Paul Pennington	1943—1944
Alden Scott Boyer	1919—1927	Earl F. Barger	1945—1946
Dr. Al. M. Rackus	1928	I. T. Kopicki	1947—1948
R. Edward Davis	1929—1932	Glenn R. Ostrander	1949—1950
J. Henri Ripstra	1933—1936	Harry X Boosel	1951—1952
William G. Rayson	1937—1938	Clyde L. Grimm	1953—1954
Robert L. McBrien	1939—1940	Elston G. Bradfield	1955—1956
Edmund E. Lamb	1941—1942	Theodore F. Pokorney ...	1957—1958
		Joseph E. Merkel	1959

PAST SECRETARIES

R. Edward Davis	1929—1927	Glenn R. Ostrander	1944—1946
Elmer Lawless	1928—1930	Earl C. Brown	1947—1949
I. T. Kopicki	1931	Glenn B. Smedley	1950
M. A. Powills	1932	Joseph E. Merkel	1951
R. Edward Davis	1933—1936	Earl L. Salisbury	1952
M. V. Sheldon	1937—1938	Theodore H. Rich	1953—1954
I. T. Kopicki	1939—1941	Michael M. Dolnick	1955—1956
Clifford Lindahl	1942—1943	Thomas J. Nolan	1957—1958

CHARTER MEMBERS

1. R. Edward Davis	12. Harry Williams	23. Albert Madlener
2. Fred Becker	13. T. E. Leon	24. L. P. Josephson
3. Fred Michael	14. S. Archie Hamilton	*25. M. P. Carey
4. Louis DeCou	15. C. N. Hinckley	26. Judson Brenner
5. George H. Blake	*16. Al M. Rackus, M.D.	27. Harry T. Wilson
6. A. Atlas Leve	17. W. F. Dunham	*28. Mrs. J. Henri Ripstra
7. Alden Scott Boyer	*18. Ernest Jonas	29. J. G. M. Luttenberger
8. Swan Nelson	19. Sigmund Krausz	30. Bert Baumann
*9. J. Henri Ripstra	20. J. T. Kelley	*31. George F. Brown
10. Albert W. Morris	21. W. Bartholemay, Jr.	32. B. Max Mehl
11. Marie A. Naerup	22. Arthur Miller	33. Elmer Lawless

* Living members

A BRIEF HISTORY

With the issuance of its 500th meeting medal, the Chicago Coin Club commemorates more than 41 years of organized numismatic achievement. A listing of the men who have served as contributors and leaders of the Chicago Coin Club over the past decades could well form the nucleus of a numismatic hall of fame.

While no brief historical account can fully capture the spirit of the organization, it is hoped this summary will create a greater awareness of its earned tradition of the fraternalism, scholarship and numismatic service exemplified by the Chicago Coin Club.

Chicago Numismatic Society
1903-1915

The Chicago Numismatic Society was the first numismatic organization in the city. Although it had no official connection with the Chicago Coin Club, some of the founding members of the Club were active in this group which provided the experienced leadership for the Chicago Coin Club. The Chicago Numismatic Society produced a series of beautiful medals during its twelve years of existence. The membership medal designed by J. Henri Ripstra which is depicted here was struck annually and was given to each member who joined the organization during the year.

C.N.S.
50th Meeting
Medal



Chicago Numismatic Society
190th Meeting Medal



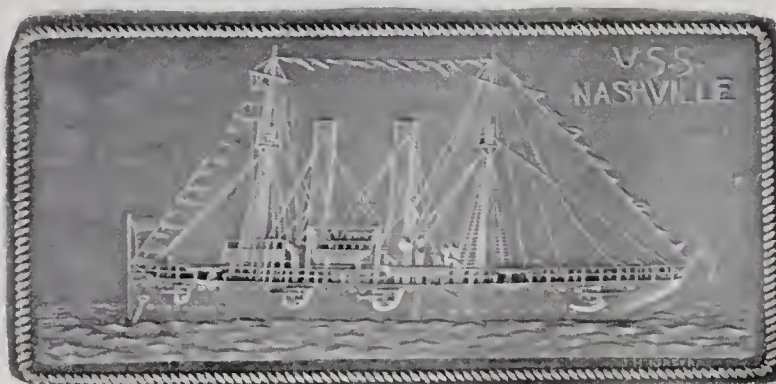
Founders Medal by Ripstra



Chicago Numismatic Society Membership Medal



Chicago Numismatic Society Aviation Medal 1910



Chicago Numismatic Society Medal 1909
Arrival of U.S.S. Nashville in Chicago Harbor

Chicago Branch No. 1, A.N.A. 1912-1914, 1917-1919

At the Rochester A.N.A. convention in 1912, the constitution was revised to authorize local coin club branches. Branch No. 1 was quickly organized at the convention and the first meeting was held in Chicago on November 12, 1912 with 13 members present. Ben Green, a well-known coin dealer, was elected president. In January, 1914, Branch No. 1 ceased to function when Mr. Green, the organization's spark plug, died.



The metallic membership card shown here also served as a receipt for dues and each member's number was counterstamped on the card.

From 1915 to 1917 there was no organized coin club in the Chicago area. Branch No. 1 was reorganized in 1917 with a membership of 10 and dues of 25 cents a year. Membership in the new Branch 1 was restricted to A.N.A. members but as the number of coin collectors interested in a local club

affiliation increased, Branch No. 1 was reorganized into the present Chicago Coin Club.

Chicago Coin Club

On February 14, 1919 the first meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Sherman Hotel. Fifteen members were present and the officers of Branch No. 1 were re-elected. There were C. N. Hinckley, president; Alden Scott Boyer, vice president; and R. E. Davis, secretary-treasurer. All applicants for membership before March 5, 1919 were designated as charter members and at the next meeting thirty-three charter members drew their numbers by lot. These charter members are listed on page 2.

Charter Members

Among our charter members are some of the "all-time greats" of numismatics. Space does not permit a complete listing of their achievements but some of the highlights of the contributions of this group will be mentioned.

R. E. Davis, #1, who joined the Chicago Numismatic Society in 1910, was the first secretary of the Chicago Coin Club and served from 1919 to 1928. He was president from 1928 to 1933 and again served as secretary from 1933 to 1936. For a year and a half he edited the monthly Club "Bulletin" which was a printed publication frequently containing articles of great literary and numismatic merit. In 1940 he was elected president of the Central States Numismatic Society. R. E. Davis is the author of the book "Early Illinois Paper Money" and numerous other articles. Upon his death in 1940 the club lost a true leader. M. A. Powells, in his article, "The Chicago Coin Club," which was published in the July, 1943 Numismatist said of him . . . "a genuine numismatist whose unfailing interest and enthusiasm will be an endearing memory in the minds and hearts of all who knew him."

Charter member Alden Scott Boyer, #7, is remembered not just as a learned numismatist but as a generous friend of the Club. He guided the Chicago Coin in its early days as president from 1919 to 1928 and achieved national prominence as both secretary and president of the A.N.A.

Charter member J. Henri Ripstra, #9, the grand old man of numismatics, is still an active member of the Chicago Coin Club and celebrated the 500th meeting with us. A medallist of note, public speaker, Lincoln scholar, and genuine numismatist, he truly represents Chicago numismatics. The CCC Bulletin of April, 1937 printed the following which is sung to tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and is illustrative of the affection for Henri expressed by his fellow members in 1937. This same sentiment prevails in 1960.

Our president Henri Ripstra
Is a very timid man
He cannot speak in public
And he hides whene'er he can
Though he loves his stamps and medals
He's a coin collecting fan
And we're for him, everyone.

Mr. Ripstra was president of the Chicago Coin Club from 1933 to 1936. He also held the highest numismatic office, president of the A.N.A. from 1937 to 1939.

Charter member Mrs. J. Henri Ripstra, #28, who also celebrated the 500th meeting with us, has since 1919 accompanied and encouraged her husband through his long and successful numismatic career. She has lent dignity and charm to our organization and numismatists everywhere greet her with warmth and affection.

Dr. Al. M. Rackus, #16, was president of the Club in 1928. Dr. Rackus was formerly the curator of the National Museum in Lithuania and is author of the book, "The Guthones."

William F. Dunham, #17, long an active collector and prominent member of the A.N.A. died on October 12, 1936. He was 79 years old.

In early life he was a school teacher, and later a wholesale and retail grocer. He studied pharmacy and became one of the leading druggists of Chicago. He was also a governing life member of the Chicago Art Institute and honorary curator of medallic art in that institution, to which he presented his collection of Roman, Greek and Japanese gold coins and a collection of Papal medals.

He served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the A.N.A. and was the compiler of quick-finding lists for Hard Times Tokens, Canadian Tokens and Encased Postage Stamps. He was the owner of a complete collection of Philadelphia Mint coins, including the 1804 dollar and 1822 half eagle.

Charter member Ernest Jonas, #18, was also with us for our 500th meeting. Mr. Jonas deserves special commendation as a disseminator of numismatic knowledge. Through the countless number of exhibits and commentaries he has made to the membership, he has been instrumental in expanding the interests of many collectors and channeling their activities into new and exciting areas of numismatics.

Michael P. Carey, #25, now residing in Los Angeles, California, not only is a charter member but is the only now living member of that first meeting along with Messrs. Ben Green, W. F. Dunham, Enos Verkler, and William Jerrems, which was a dinner meeting at the Union League Club.

George F. Brown, #31, who now resides in Pasadena, California, contributed much in illustration and writings in the field of numismatics on War Tokens of France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

B. Max Mehl, #32, one of America's outstanding coin dealers and the man who is said to have kept the public interest focused on our hobby all during the depression period. Mr. Mehl maintained his membership and active interest in the Club during his long numismatic career in Ft. Worth, Texas. Some of his famous auction sales were the Wm. F. Dunham sale of 1941 — \$83,364.00; Frederick W. Geiss sale of 1947 — \$107,383.00; King Farouk sale of 1948-51 — \$116,467.00; J. F. Bell of Chicago — \$44,500.00.

In 1954, upon completion of 35 years of membership, the seven living charter members were awarded a special permanent membership card designed by M. Vernon and Marcella Sheldon. The recipients were J. Henri Ripstra, Mrs. J. Henri Ripstra, Ernest Jonas, George F. Brown, Michael P. Carey, George H. Blake and B. Max Mehl.

100th Meeting



The 100th meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held on June 1, 1927, during the presidency of Alden Scott Boyer. A 100th meeting medal was struck in bronze and distributed to the membership.

During the period between 1919 and 1927 the Chicago Coin Club was host to the National A.N.A. convention in 1920. The Convention badge and medal has as its design Chicago's old Fort Dearborn, within a background of a large "Y" representing the North and South branches of the Chicago River. No ribbon was part of this badge, and a limited number was struck without the pin attached and offered for sale at \$1.00.

200th Meeting

The 200th meeting was held October 2, 1935 and was celebrated with a dinner and auction at the Atlantic Hotel. No medal or token was issued for this event.

The first Ladies Night was inaugurated in May 1934 and for many years one meeting night was planned by our fair sex and devoted to their hobbies and exhibits.



25th Anniversary

The 25th anniversary of the Club was celebrated in 1944 with Paul Pennington as president. The Club issued a beautiful medal in silver with a bust of Lincoln on the obverse. This medal was designed by A. Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio, and struck with the ambition of celebrating its 25th anniversary with the annual meeting of the A.N.A. (war-time streamlined convention).



400th Meeting

The 400th meeting was held on May 14, 1952. For this occasion, instead of the usual type of medal, a Mexican one peso coin was counterstamped with the Club's initials and appropriate inscription.

Central States Numismatic Society

During the period of 1935 to 1944 one of the notable numismatic achievements involving the Chicago Coin Club was the formation of the Central States Numismatic Society in 1939. During the presidency of William G. Rayson in 1938 a committee was appointed to explore the feasibility of organizing a midwest numismatic association. Lee F. Hewitt, I. T. Kopicki and M. V. Sheldon, who served on this committee, are the fathers of the CSNS which was formed the following year. Serving as presidents of the Central States Numismatic Society were R. E. Davis, 1940-41; I. T. Kopicki, 1942-43; R. S. Yeoman, 1948-49; James W. Curtis, 1952-53; Harry X Boosel, 1958-59. Serving as secretaries were I. T. Kopicki, 1939; Thos. Shugrue, 1942-43; R. S. Yeoman, 1947-48; Arthur Rutz, 1948-50; Paul H. Ginther, 1950-54; and Earl C. Brown, 1954-55. Chicago Coin Club members who have been recipients of C.S.N.S. Medal of Merit are Earl C. Brown, James W. Curtis, Paul H. Ginther, E. G. Bradfield, L. M. Reagan, James Hurlbut, Glenn Smedley, Richard Yeoman, Clyde Grimm, I. T. Kopicki, and Lee F. Hewitt.

A.N.A. Visual Education Slides

Another event of importance was the development of the A.N.A. Visual Education slide program. Our president Glenn B. Smedley served as chairman of this committee from 1950 to 1957. The first slides developed by the A.N.A. were shown at a meeting of the Chicago Coin Club in 1939.

Club Seal

The club seal and motto "Decendo Discimus" (we learn by teaching) was designed by the late Wm. Rayson, and was adopted February 1939.

Achievements

Achievements from 1952 to 1959 included blue ribbons for first place in National Coin Week Class A Competition in 1952 and 1954.



Medal of Merit

At the 1955 annual banquet the first medals under the Club's new medal program was inaugurated. The club has issued the past president's medal in silver, bronze exhibit medal, literary medal and award of merit.



Above, Literary Award Medal
(Illustration in reduced size)



At right, Past President's Medal



Exhibit Medal

1959 Fall Festival

In celebrating the 1959 Fall Festival our board member Nathan N. Eglit had a brass token struck which was distributed to all members and guests attending the banquet. The reverse of this token has a quotation from Shakespeare's "Hamlet."



Literary Achievements

Numismatic scholarship characterizes the Chicago Coin Club; the literary achievements of its members have been monumental. The editors of the two leading numismatic journals in the United States and the editor of the coin column in one of the leading Sunday papers are active members of the club. Past president E. G. Bradfield is currently editor of the *Numismatist* and has won international recognition for the high quality of this journal under his direction. He has as his assistant editor Glenn B. Smedley who can expound numismatics rather forcibly. Lee F. Hewitt, editor of the popular *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, also served as editor of the *Numismatist* from September 1942 to January 1943. Lee Hewitt has developed his magazine to big circulation and it is accepted as the leading numismatic magazine in the country. Hugh M. Knight as editor of the Sunday's *Sun-Times* "Coin Corner" column enjoys a large circulation among numismatists in Chicago and surrounding areas.

It would be impossible to list the numerous articles published in the various numismatic publications by the various members of the club. Even an attempt to record the numismatic books written by members of the club will undoubtedly overlook a few. Numismatic books written by club members include:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| R. E. Davis | ..... | "Early Illinois Bank Notes" |
| Wm. F. Dunham | ..... | "Quick Finding List of Hard Times and Canadian Tokens, also Encased Postage Stamps" |
| Dr. A. M. Rackus | .... | "The Guthones" |
| M. P. Carey | ..... | "The Emperors of Rome" |
| James W. Curtis | .... | "The Tetradrachms of Roman Egypt" |
| | | "Primer Book of U.S. Pattern Coins" |
| Harry X Boosel | ..... | "Coins of 1873" |
| Paul Pennington | .... | "Ancient Coins" |
| Arlie R. Slabaugh | ... | "The German Inflation" |
| | | "Paper Money of the Mexican Revolution" |
| | | "Confederate States Paper Money" |
| Harwood Frost | ..... | "Evolution of the Dollar" |
| Richard S. Yeoman | .. | "Red Book, Blue Book, Brown Book" |
| Kenneth Bressett | .... | "Hawaiian Coins" |
| Hugh M. Knight | .... | "A Simplified Guide to Collecting American Coins" |

Publications

In 1936 the Club undertook the publication of a printed quarterly "Bulletin"; Vol. I, No. 1 appearing in March of that year. M. Vernon Sheldon was the first editor. Its cost was financed from auction receipts. Lee F. Hewitt served as editor for 1937-38; R. Edward Davis, 1939-40; Wm. G. Rayson, 1941-42.

Due to difficulties presented by World War II, publication of "The Bulletin" was made annually in 1943 and included a membership list.

After the 1957 edition publication was suspended in favor of the monthly "Chatter," which had been introduced by president Glenn Ostrander. Herb Shaner, our present editor, is doing a fine job and his work on the Club "Chatter" brought him recognition beyond our borders as he was selected to edit the *MANA Journal*.

Auctions

The publications of the Club as well as some other activities have been financed by auction commissions. Prior to 1936 Club auctions were an informal affair consisting of a dozen items and auctioned after each meeting by Lawrence Josephson.

In 1936 the first regular auction committee was appointed, with lists being prepared in advance of the meetings. Wm. G. Rayson cried the sales until his retirement in 1952. Since then the auctioneer spot has been occupied largely by Thomas Shugrue, Lee F. Hewitt, Harold Klein, Jimmy Thompson, Michael Powills and Elston Bradfield.

Virtually every active member has at one time or another, served on the cataloging and clerking committee.

National Officers

Since its organization the Chicago Coin Club has been represented continuously in the official family of American Numismatic Association (in addition to several non-resident members). At present the resident member who is an elected A.N.A. officer is Harold R. Klein—the treasurer.

The Library

The library contains over 200 works and members are permitted to borrow books for a period of one month. Through the courtesy of Philip More we now have a portable bookcase right in our meeting rooms so that books are convenient to any member.

The 500th Meeting Medal

The beautiful example of medalllic art illustrated on the front cover is an appropriate tribute to the Club and its members on our 500th meeting. The medal has been designed by our member James F. Friberg, architectural designer, and has been struck in gold, bronze and silver of barrel contour, size 72 x 52 mm. The obverse shows the world with expanding comet-like lines originating at Chicago; vertically reading CHICAGO on the left and 1960 on the right, all struck incuse. The top panel is the ornate water tower erected in 1869 and the bottom panel shows the building skyline, looking down the Chicago River from the Lake's edge. The 707 jet airliner projects the future yet to come, and is cameo struck along with the two panels. The reverse shows the figures of the occasion and the Club's corporate seal with its Latin inscription "Docendo Discimus" (we learn by teaching).

The Chicago Coin Club Memorial Medal Committee will sell, until exhausted, balance of medals at: Silver, \$10.00 each; bronze \$5.00 each, and set of three anodized aluminum medals at \$7.50 per set. Address orders and checks to: M. Vernon Sheldon, Chairman, 451 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago 14, Ill.

